A Short Account OF THE ITCH, OR

A Compendious Treatiſe of the Diſeaſes of the *SKIN*, from the ſlighteſt Itching Humour in particular Parts only, to the moſt inveterate Itch, ſtubborn Scabbineſs, and confirmed Leproſy.

Plainly deſcribing

Their Symptoms, Nature, Dependance on each other, original Cauſe, and diſmal Conſequence to the Patients and their Poſterity, if neglected or miſmanaged.

ALSO

The dangerous Effects of Quickſilver Girdles, Ointments, Waſhes, and other pernicious Mercurial Medicines.

DISCOVERING

The True and only certain Method of Curing thoſe Diſtempers with Safety, Eaſe and Expedition, and without the Uſe of dabbing Ointments, Brimſtone, or other nauſeous and ill-ſmelling Remedies, Confinement of the Patient, Diſorder of the Body, or Knowledge of the neareſt Friend.

THE WHOLE

Illuſtrated with ſeveral extraordinary Caſes, and very remarkable Cures performed by the Author, Neceſſary to be read by all Perſons, but more eſpecially thoſe who are unhappily troubled with the ITCH, or any other Cutaneous Diſtemper.

By T. S. Poores

The Sixth Edition, Corrected.

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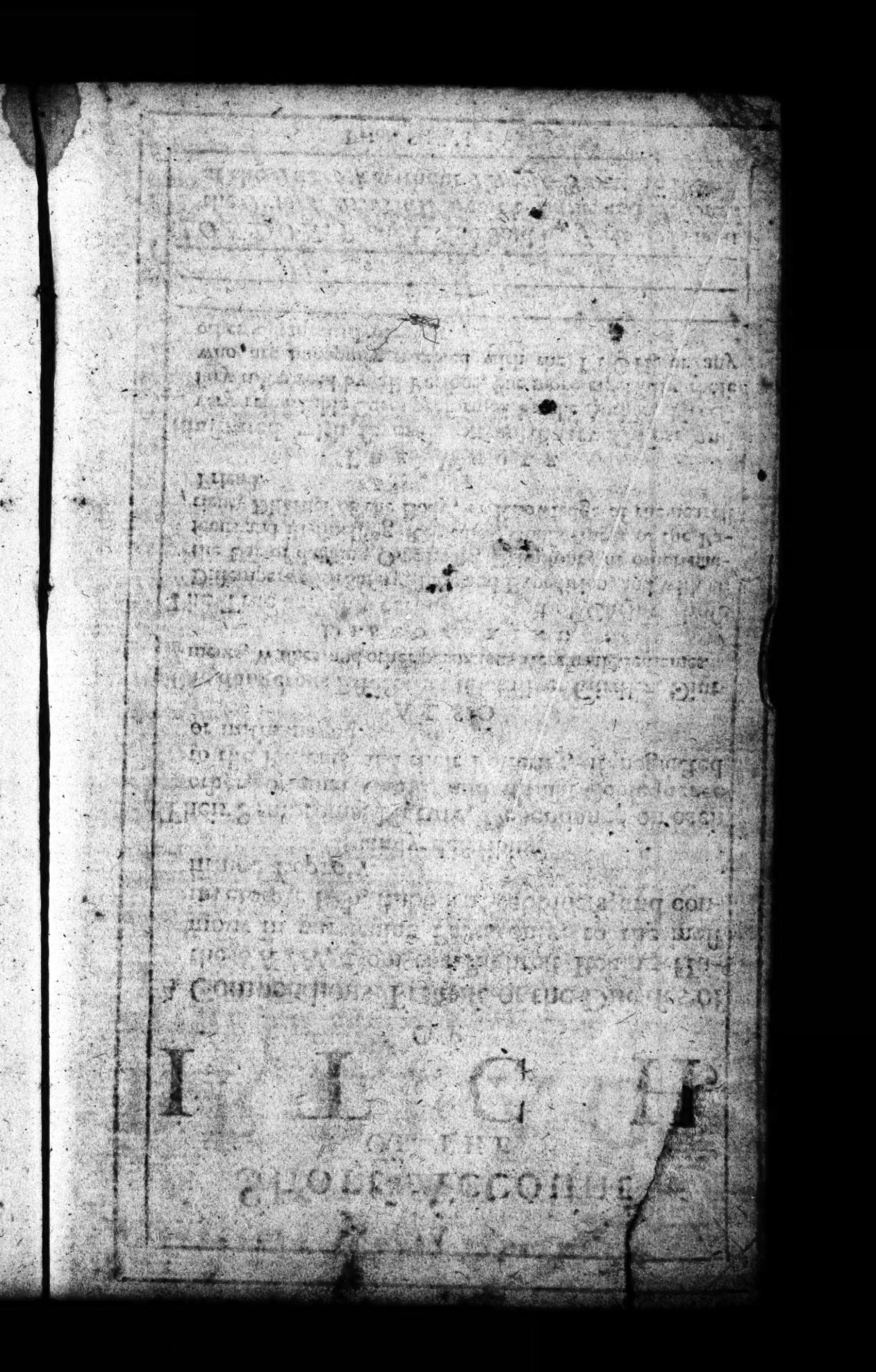

THE PREFACE

THE *fifth Edition of this little Book being ſold off, and the Bookſeller calling on me to reprint it, I quickly determined to look it over carefully for that End; and what did not a little conduce to my publiſhing it again ſo readily, was, the favourable Reception the former Editions met with from the Publick, who were ſo indulgent as to eſteem it a plain honeſt Account of the Diſtempers it treats of, and (what I my ſelf have not Vanity enough to think) more to the purpoſe than any thing wrote before.*

THE *great Experience alſo I have had (ſince I firſt publiſhed this little Book) of the Method I recommended in it as moſt rational for the Cure of the* Itch, *inveterate* Itching Humours, Scabbineſs *and* Leproſy, *was anothor Motive of my venturing it again into the World; for I can truly ſay my Succeſs in Curing Cutaneous Diſeaſes (having been exceedingly great, greater perhaps than many can eaſily believe) is a thorough Confirmation of the Efficacy of the Method I have mentioned to uſe, and by which I have reſtored abundance of People to perfect Health, who from the inveteracy of the Diſeaſe, length of Time they had been afflicted, and from their having often tried other Means in vain, almoſt deſpaired of ever being Cured; of which I could give many Inſtances of Men of Worth and Probity, were it proper.*

I have added at the latter End, an Index to the whole, that those who have not Leisure or Inclination to begin and read the Book quite through (which yet is much the best way) may however, by looking over That, know what it contains, and turn to the Page they think most likely to inform them, of what they want chiefly to be acquainted with.

THE *Index, considering the smallness of the Book it self, may be thought strange by some, it being as large as what is commonly found to a Book of six times the Bulk of this; but their wonder will cease, when they consider that this* Short Account, *under some Authors Pens, would have swell'd perhaps to more than six times its bigness, without containing more in Fact, than it does now. For my part, I think the fewer Words a Man expresses his Thoughts in, the better, provided he can be clearly understood; for to use more, or be prolix in Writing, serves only, in my Opinion, to puzzle the Cause, or amuse the Reader.*

BUT *whosoever Writes and Publishes his Thoughts upon any Subject to the World, would be vain in the last degree, should he expect every one would approve of them; the most Correct Books in all Arts and Sciences, have ever met with ill-natur'd and unjust Censure from some, which indeed is no wonder, since* Holy Writ *it self has not escaped the Ridicule of Profligate Wretches; it is truly said, unhappy is that Person of whom every one speaks well, alluding that there never was or can be such a one, and in that Sense we may say, Vile and Contemptible is the Book, which every body likes: The Man therefore who sets Pen to Paper, in order to communicate any thing to the*

the Publick, ought first to resolve to bear unmov'd, all the Calumny and invidious Reflections that Malice can invent.

THIS I fully determin'd when I began the following Treatise, and shall be altogether unconcerned for the Success it meets with amongst the cavilling part of Mankind.

I have given my Thoughts freely on the Itch, *inveterate* Itching Humours, Scabbiness *and* Leprosy, *under one or other of which, almost all Cuticular Eruptions, that are not the immediate Effects of acute Diseases, may be comprised; I thought it needless in this* Short Account *to treat particularly of* Tetters, Ringworms, *&c. more especially since the Medicines that will Cure the* Itch, *&c. will likewise Cure them, and most, if not all, other Defilements of the Skin that take their Rise from Chronick Distempers.*

I am not so opinionated of my own Performances, as to imagine that what I have written is without fault; yet I hope the Candid and Benevolent Reader will take what I have done in good Part.

HE that writes his Sentiments of any Distemper, or concerning any Matter or Thing, with unfeigned Sincerity, is, in my Opinion, excusable, tho' he may not be wholly free from Error, and tho' a great Motive of it may be Self-Interest, viz. *gaining Honour, or increasing his Substance; but those are truly blamable, who to obtain either of these, publish to the World as solemn Truths, their own sprightly Inventions, which have no real Foundation, and which in Fact, they do not believe themselves.*

AND

AND that such groundless Hypotheses are to be found among Physical Authors, and that plain dealing is a Virtue not always to be met with, may be gathered from the Works of Dr. Sydenham, *the most worthy, and sincere Physician* Europe *ever bred, who being importuned to write an History of Chronick Distempers, complained of the difficulty of such a Task, in the following Words.*

'*FOR among Physical Writers, if you except* Hippocrates, *and some very few others, scarce* 'any *Footsteps can be found whereby I might trace* 'thro' *these impassable Ways, obstructed with so* 'many *Difficulties; for the Lights and Helps which* 'Authors *promise, are rather* Ignes fatui, *than true* 'Lights; *which rather misguide to Rocks and Precipices, than direct for the finding the Genuine Method of Nature; for most of their Writings are* 'built *upon Hypotheses proceeding from their own* 'Fancies; *and the very* Phœnomena *of Diseases,* 'of *which the History of them consists, as they are* 'described *by these, are modelled in the same Shop* 'of *Suppositions, and the very Practice wherewith* 'they *undertake Diseases, (which is the certain* 'Plague *and Destruction of Mankind) is suited to* 'this *kind of* Postulata, *and not according to* 'the *Truth of the Thing, so reigning are these* 'Mens *Whimsies almost in every Page; and in the* 'mean *while the Directions of Nature are slighted.*

WHAT this most Excellent Physician says is very much to be lamented; for to be swayed by an embraced Hypothesis, and to be insincere in what relates so

eminently

eminently to Life, and Health the greateſt Bleſſing of it, muſt ſurely be highly Criminal, and in the laſt degree Barbarous.

IF I know my own Heart, I have wrote the following Pages with that Integrity that becomes an honeſt Man, and have given as plain and natural an Account of the Illneſſes I have treated about, as I poſſibly could; for the reſt I do not trouble my ſelf, I pretend not to Correctneſs of Stile; all the uſe I know of Words, is to convey one Man's Senſe of Things to another, if therefore I can be underſtood, it is ſufficient: This I am ſatisfied of, from very great Experience, that the Method I have deſcribed for the Cure of the Diſeaſes the Title mentions, will, if they are curable, by the Bleſſing of God, take Effect; and not only in them, but in the King's-Evil, *and all* Scrophulous *Caſes alſo, in a very ſhort Time, in proportion to the inveteracy of them, provided the Patients will follow Directions; and ſuch of them who think fit to apply to me, may depend upon faithful and civil Treatment, as I am ſure all who have been under my Care hitherto, will acknowledge they have found, from*

T. SPOONER.

From my Houſe, next the *Black-Horſe* Inn, in *Leman-Street*, in *Goodman's-Fields*, *April* 15, 1728.

THE

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A Short Account OF THE ITCH, &c.

CHAP. I.

The Deſcription, Symptoms, Nature and dangerous Conſequences of the Itch, *particular* Itching Humours, Scabbineſs *and* Leproſy.

THE *Itch* is a filthy Diſtemper, infeſting the External Parts of the Body univerſally, but more particularly the Joints, and between the Fingers, commonly with Puſtulous Eruptions raiſed upon the Scarf-Skin, by almoſt unavoidable ſcratching, occaſioned thro' violent itching of the Parts; from theſe Puſtulous Eruptions or little Bladders, when broke, there iſſues a thin Cryſtalline Humour, which touching any other Part not yet infected, ſoon cauſes inceſſant itching, and upon ſcratching, more Bladders to ariſe.

AND by this means the *Itch*, in whatever Part it begins firſt, is ſoon ſpread over the whole Body, and very remarkably fixes upon the Wriſts, Hams, and eſpecially between the Fingers, which peculiarly diſtinguiſhes a real *Itch* from that ſlight itching of the Body, many People are troubled with for a ſhort time, commonly about the beginning of Winter, and in the Spring, occaſioned only by Straitneſs, or Conſtipation, of the Pores of the Skin, thro' change or coldneſs of the Seaſon, and which moſtly goes away, upon enlarging or opening the Pores again, either by proper Exerciſe, or the help of the Bagnio, without further Trouble, or Medicines; yet if it continues, it may lay the Foundation of a true *Itch* ſoon after to follow, as will be ſhewn hereafter.

WHEN the *Itch* has continued long, and is become confirmed, the little Ulcerations encreaſe, and the clear Humour, contained in the little Bladders, degenerates to a purulent Matter, which ſtill makes the Diſeaſe more Nauſeous and Infectious.

SOMETIMES the *Itch* appears in a dry form, without thoſe Puſtules before mentioned, and then the Scarf-Skin looks red, rugged or uneven, and when by long continuance it is grown inveterate, the Parts affected are covered over with a dry kind of thin Scab, and this is the worſt and moſt ſtubborn ſort of *Itch*, which, as well as the moiſt kind before ſpoken of, if neglected, in length of

Time,

Time, turns to a foul *Scabies* or *Scabbineſs* o the whole Body, quickly to be deſcribed.

THE moiſt *Itch*, tho' not ſo ſtubborn o virulent as the dry kind, yet, by means of its moiſture, ſooner and more eaſily communicates its Infection to Sound Bodies.

AND ſo Contagious is the *Itch* of either ſort, that lying in Bed with a Perſon troubled with it, or in the Sheets an itchy Perſon has lain in, or to wipe one's Hands with the ſame Cloth, or draw on a Glove ſuch a Perſon has worn, or even to have Linnen waſhed with the Linnen of one afflicted with the *Itch*, is ſufficient to catch the Diſtemper: and as the Famous and Ingenious Dr. *Willis* ſays, 'Certainly the Infection of no one Diſ'eaſe is more eaſily and certainly propagated '(the Plague only excepted) than this of the '*Itch*.

YET ſome Perſons are much more ſubject to be infected with it than others; for in many there is a certain aptneſs to receive Diſeaſes of this kind, and ſuch Perſons catch it ſooner than others, as Experience demonſtrates; which difference 'tis likely may happen through the Natural Structure of the External Pores of the Body, or their being larger in one Perſon than in another, ſo as to imbibe or receive the infecting Humour ſooner and more ſurely.

BUT when One Perſon in a Family or Houſe is infected with the *Itch*, it commonly runs thro' the whole, and eſpecially ſeizes o

thoſe who Eat, Drink and Lye, or are very converſant with the Perſon who has ſo accidentally caught it; and thus the *Itch* is communicated from one Perſon, and one Family to another, by means of lying in ſtrange Beds, by Children of different Families playing together, or by Servant Maids or Nurſes, *&c.* that have had this loathſome Diſeaſe, and come into Families before they are perfectly cured of it.

WHEN the *Itch* is caught by Infection, the Scarf or outward Skin only, for ſome time, is infected, and the Blood not at all tainted with it, and then it may eaſily and quickly be cured by proper Medicines regularly adminiſter'd.

BUT when it has been neglected long, and the little Ulcers have crept deeper, and touched the *Cutis* or real Skin, ſo that the infecting Humour penetrates the ſmall Veins, and is circled about with the Blood, it ſoon contaminates its whole Maſs, and all the other Juices of the Body, and then becomes confirmed, is more dangerous, and much more difficult to Cure.

SO alſo where it happens to aged People, and likewiſe if it is complicated with other Diſtempers, in which laſt Caſe it muſt be treated with the utmoſt Skill, for then the Circumſtances of the Patient will not often admit of its being cured after the neareſt manner, but require it to be managed with great

great Care and Caution, and with a particular regard to the other Illneſſes that afflict the Patient; who otherwiſe may be kill'd inſtead of being cured, as in another Caſe happen'd to a certain Perſon labouring under a Conſumption of the Lungs and the *Venereal* Diſeaſe together, the Perſon he apply'd to for Cure imprudently put him into a Salivation for the latter, without minding the former, and ſo deſtroy'd him; for which he was deſervedly Proſecuted in a Court of Juſtice.

SOME Authors, Antient and Modern, are of the Opinion, that when the *Itch* has continued many Months together, and got into the whole Habit of the Body, it cannot be cured; but with Submiſſion, I muſt diſſent from them, being ſatisfy'd from my own Experience, that the moſt inveterate *Itch* may be perfectly and ſafely cured, by the Rational Method recommended in the latter Part of this Book, of which I alſo flatter my ſelf my Readers will be convinced.

YET that an inveterate *Itch* is much more difficult to Cure than a ſlight one, is moſt certain, and Dr. *Willis* before-mentioned, ſpeaking of ſome of his Patients that were afflicted with the *Itch*, which proved ſo ſtubborn, that with the moſt powerful Remedies, and even repeated Salivations, he could not Cure, tells us, that 'The Venereal Diſeaſe 'tho' it be extreamly Malignant, and cauſes 'moſt foul Cacoethick Ulcers that Eat the 'Fleſh

'Fleſh and Bones, may more eaſily and cer-
'tainly be cured than the *Itch*.

ANOTHER Author, writing upon this Diſtemper, has the following Words, 'I knew 'three Brothers, all young Men, die purely 'of the *Itch*, which by length of Time be-'coming habitual, at laſt corrupted the whole 'Body, which with putrid and eating Ulcers 'deſtroyed them.

AND thus we find Authors believe this Diſeaſe when grown inveterate, by being neglected too long, to be not only Incurable, but Mortal; but with them I cannot agree, for in my Opinion, the Diſeaſe that kill'd the Three Brothers the laſt quoted Author mentions (judging by the latter part of his own Words) was rather a confirmed and univerſal *Scabbineſs* that ſucceeded an inveterate *Itch*, than properly the *Itch* it ſelf, which I believe never proves Mortal till it turns to a loathſome *Scabbineſs*, which indeed many times brings on Death.

HOWEVER certain it is, that there is a vaſt Difference in this Diſtemper, it being much harder to Cure in ſome Perſons than in others; the Reaſon of which ſeems very plain, and my Experience every Day confirms it more and more, to be generally ſpeaking thus, That thoſe in whom it proves ſtubborn, are themſelves the occaſion of it; for when they firſt find they have caught the *Itch*, inſtead of

applying

applying inſtantly to an ingenious Phyſician for a regular Cure, as they ought to do, they tamper with it themſelves, and either take and uſe trifling Remedies, ſo as to let the Diſeaſe gain ground of it ſelf, or elſe more miſchievous ones, ſo as haſtily to fix it in the Blood and Juices, by which, of courſe, it becomes very ſtubborn and inveterate.

AN Example of which I very lately met with in a Tradeſman, who having caught the *Itch*, follow'd the Advice of a Woman and other unskilful Perſons, and alſo by uſing ſeveral Pretended Infallible Remedies, on his own Head, had ſo inrag'd the Diſeaſe, fix'd it in all his Fluids, and render'd it ſo very ſtubborn and inveterate, that it was with much difficulty I overcame it, and perfectly Cured him.

ONE would admire that People ſhould be thus infatuated to their own Detriment, and, as ſometimes it proves, to their own Deſtruction; but ſo it is, and that not only now and then, but very frequently; and what one would ſtill more wonder at, I have almoſt daily Accounts from Perſons of the beſt Senſe and Worth, who apply to me for Cure in thoſe ſtubborn Caſes, of their having injured themſelves in this Manner, which I think, can proceed from nothing elſe, than that either they are aſham'd to acquaint a Phyſician that they are troubled with ſuch a Diſtemper, which is an Error, or elſe they imagine the *Itch* to be a Diſeaſe of little or no Conſequence

and without Danger, which is a very great and ſometimes fatal Miſtake, as in the Courſe of theſe Papers, will be made appear.

BUT beſides the Diſtemper commonly call'd the *Itch*, there are particular and inveterate *Itching Humours* of various Kinds or Appearances, that do not affect the Body univerſally as That does, but fix upon particular Parts only, as in ſome Perſons upon the back of one or both of the Hands, in others upon the Shoulders or Arms, and in others upon one or both of the Thighs, or ſome other particular Parts, either of the Head, Face, Body or Limbs, many times about as broad as a Man's Hand; but ſome Perſons have them much broader, and others much narrower; and in whatever Parts they firſt appear, they moſtly continue, ſometimes diminiſhing and ſometimes increaſing, in reſpect both to largeneſs and inveteracy, for many Months and oftentimes Years together, unleſs prudently managed and perfectly Cured, by Internal as well as External Remedies.

NOW and then the inveterate *Itching Humours* of this kind in ſome Patients change their Station, and diſappearing in the Parts they firſt affected, ſoon after ariſe in others; but this they ſeldom do, unleſs the Perſons troubled with them, tamper with outward Applications, which, alone, are dangerous,

as

as will be made appear in the following Sheets.

THESE particular *Itching Humours*, in whatever Parts they ſhew themſelves, make the Scarf-Skin look Red, Angry and Unequal, and beſides the violent Itching that moſtly attends them, little Pimples, upon ſcratching, commonly ariſe, that are very ſore for a ſhort time, and often ſend forth a thin Humour, that may be ſeen ſtanding upon the Parts affected, almoſt like Dew, and when the Soreneſs abates, the Pimples diminiſh and the Itching increaſes, and then little dry Scurf falls off, and freſh Pimples ſoon ariſe, ſo that there is unſufferable itching, and ſevere ſoreneſs, almoſt at the ſame time, which proves exceeding troubleſome to thoſe unhappily fatigued therewith.

THESE inveterate *Itching Humours* differ not much from the Diſeaſe, called *Scabies* or *Scabbineſs*, excepting only that they confine themſelves to particular Parts, as before ſhewn, and That moſtly affects the Body univerſally.

SCABIES or *Scabbineſs*, is a Diſeaſe moſt commonly ſucceeding an inveterate *Itch*, either moiſt or dry, for when either kind has continued long, or been ill Cured, ſo that the very Fountains of the Blood and Juices are corrupted, an inveterate and filthy *Scabbineſs*, quickly follows, which not only affects the *Cuticula* or Scarf-Skin, as that does, but penetrates deeper, and fixes upon the

the *Cutis* or real Skin, which it gnaws and ulcerates, and cauſes naſty Scabs to cover the Parts.

IF it follows the moiſt *Itch*, foul Ichorous Matter iſſues from them, which is very contagious, and infects any ſound Part it touches; but if it ſucceeds the dry *Itch*, there is ſeldom any Pus iſſues from the Scabs, which then appear very cruſty, dry and nauſeous to the ſight.

SOMETIMES a *Scabbineſs* happens when the *Itch* has not gone before it, but this is not near ſo frequent as the *Scabbineſs* following the *Itch*, which as before ſaid, is generally a Preludium to this hateful Diſtemper.

A *Scabbineſs* is alſo accompany'd with itching as well as ſoreneſs, eſpecially about the Edges of the ſmall Ulcers that void a foul corrupted Pus in the moiſt kind, and about the cruſty Scabs in the dry ſort.

AN univerſal *Scabbineſs*, as it is much worſe than the *Itch* for Filthineſs and Putrefaction, ſo it is much more dangerous and difficult to Cure.

IF it continues long without being Cured, the Ulcerations increaſe in number as well as largeneſs, and the diſcharge of Matter from them is ſo great, the Humours continually flowing that way, that the Body being robb'd or drain'd of its moiſture, falls of courſe into a Conſumption, which, together with the fatigue the Patient undergoes in the Day time, and want of Reſt and Sleep at Night, occaſioned

caſioned by continual alternate itching and ſmarting, quickly finiſhes the fatal Cataſtrophe, and the unhappy Patient is obliged to ſubmit to a miſerable Death.

BUT this muſt be underſtood only of the moiſt *Scabbineſs*, for the dry one, tho' very Inveterate and Malign, yet ſeldom or never is attended with Death, but firſt uſhers in a poiſonous *Leproſy*, that, if not timely Cured, ſoon puts a Period to the Patient's Life.

THE *Leproſy* is the moſt Malignant Diſtemper that affects the External Parts of the Body, the Blood and Juices being contaminated with its fatal Poiſon, whence proceeds the great Difficulty of curing it.

THE *Leproſy* is ſometimes the Hereditary Diſeaſe of the Family, but is much more commonly contracted by Infection.

AND it may indeed be termed, as in the Learned Dr. *Blancard*'s Phyſical Dictionary, a Diſeaſe, by which, 'The Temperature, 'Form, and Figure, and at laſt the very 'Continuity of the Body is corrupted; *and as he again ſays*, 'Is a Canker commonly to the 'whole Body.

THE *Itch* and *Scabies* are uſually the Forerunners of it, for the *Itch*, being neglected, turns to an univerſal *Scabies*, and that to the *Leproſy* as before ſhewn, which is the worſt of Cutaneous Diſeaſes, and accompanied with the higheſt degree of Corruption and Putrefaction.

THE

THE Symptoms accompanying this direful Diſeaſe, are both Internal and External concifely ſumm'd up as follow:

'THE Internal are Acid or Muſty Belch-
'ings, Coſtiveneſs, Thirſt, a ſtinking Sweat,
'thick Urine, inſomuch, that the Powder of
'Lead will ſwim upon it; an extream propen-
'ſity to Venery; thickneſs, viſcoſity, and
'unctuoſity of the Blood when drawn forth, and
'little Clots of Sand ſticking to the Cloth thro'
'which it is ſtrained; ſtinking Breath, a weari-
'neſs of the Limbs, Chilneſs, Stupidity, and
'a hoarſe Voice, as if it came thro' the Noſe.

'THE External Symptoms are theſe, the
'Skin appears livid, black or yellow; it
'wrinkles when expoſed to the Cold; it is
'notably rough and oily, inſomuch, that Wa-
'ter will not ſtick to it; it is covered over
'with a Purple or white Dandriff; little
'moveable painleſs Knots and Swellings beſet
'the Forehead, Chin and Joints; a dry Ring-
'worm and Puſhes cover the whole Body, and
'affect not only the Skin but the Muſcles; an
'eternal *Itch* like the gnawing of Worms,
'or pricking with Needles moleſts 'em; when
'they ſcratch any Part, it turns dry and
'ſcaly, but voids no Matter; the Hair of
'their Head and Eyebrows falls of; their
'Forehead is furrowed with wrinkles; their
'Ears ſtretched and ſwelled; the Eyebrows
'callous and raiſed; their Eyes round red
'and ſparkling, infeſted with little hard ſwel-
'lings in the corners, and apt to water; the

'upper

'upper part of their Noſe contracted, while 'the inferiour is enlarged, troubled with fre-'quent ſneezing, and infeſted with a Polypus 'and Cancrous corroſive Ulcers; the Face and 'Lips are pale, hard, livid, and chop'd; 'their Tongue and Mouth liable to hard 'Swellings, Chops and Corroſion; the Gums 'rough and ſwol'n; the Spittle Viſcous; 'their Breaſts hard, and their Veins ſwol'n; 'the Joints wither'd, and beſet with callous 'indolent Ulcers, that are apt to bleed upon 'the ſlighteſt touch; the Muſcles of their 'Hands, eſpecially thoſe of the Thumb, and 'firſt Finger, are much conſumed; the Fin-'gers and Toes benumb'd; the Joints diſtorted 'and knotty, and the Nails black, bowed and 'chopped.

THE Reader, I preſume will readily allow, that Perſons labouring under all theſe Symptoms, can have but ſmall, if any hopes of Life, and indeed here are ſo many dreadful ones enumerated, that the very Thoughts of them, one would think, are ſufficient not only to ſink a Perſon Afflicted with them to the Grave, but alſo to make him deſire a ſpeedy Death, as a kind Relief to the grievous Miſery he muſt neceſſarily endure.

BUT it muſt not be imagined, that every one affected with the *Leproſy*, is afflicted with all theſe Symptoms; ſome Perſons are not troubled with one half of them, and yet are as ſurely *Leprous* as thoſe labouring under the greateſt part, or all, that have been ſumm'd up.

THE

THE moſt diſtinguiſhing Sign of the *Leproſy*, is the Fiſh like Scales, of a Branny Colour, that fall from the External Parts of the diſeaſed Perſon; and whether that is attended with many more of the before-mentioned Symptoms, as it moſtly is, or not, it beſpeaks the *Leproſy*.

THE ſooner the Cure of this Diſtemper is undertaken, and the fewer the Symptoms are, the better it will be overcome, and the ſooner and more certainly will the Patient be reſtored to Health; but if it be neglected for a conſiderable time, till the Symptoms are multiplied, the Strength of the Patient much impaired, and the Diſeaſe arrived to the higheſt degree, it may then be ſaid to be incurable, and the ſuffering Wretch has nothing more to do, than to ſettle his Worldly Affairs, commit his Soul to God who gave it, and patiently expect his Diſſolution to put a final End to his intolerable Torment.

BY the Account and Deſcription of the Symptoms, Nature and Danger of the External Diſeaſes here given, I think it plainly appears how inexcuſably remiſs, and in the laſt degree negligent of themſelves thoſe Perſons are, who being afflicted in the ſlighteſt manner with Cutaneous Diſtempers, or ſuch as affect the External Parts univerſally, omit to ſeek for a regular Cure in time, ſince it has been ſufficiently proved, that the moſt trifling *Itch*, if neglected, becomes more and more inveterate, and advances ſtep by ſtep, from

one

one degree to another, till from the *Itch* it turns to an univerſal and nauſeous *Scabies*, which many times kills the Patients unfortunately troubled with it, and if it does not, turns to a loathſome *Leproſy*, that very often proves incurable, and fails not to render the unhappy Sufferers, and oftentimes their Poſterity after them, miſerable Spectacles to others, as well as lamentable Torments to themſelves, and at laſt accompliſhes their Deſtruction, by the unavoidable Death it certainly brings on.

AND no leſs imprudent are they, who being troubled with *Tetters*, *Ringworms*, and other breakings out, in particular Parts, neglect to get Cured; for they are for the moſt part Species of one or other of the Diſeaſes I have deſcribed, and are of very ill Conſequence, if not quickly remedied.

I have not inlarged on thoſe ſeveral breakings out, by their particular Names, as found in Authors, becauſe, as they may be comprehended under the *Itch*, inveterate *Itching Humours*, *Scabies*, or *Leproſy*, which I have diſcourſed on; I would neither tire the Reader's Patience, or ſwell theſe Papers beyond my firſt Intention.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Of the Original Cauſe of the Itch, *inveterate* Itching Humours, Scabbineſs *and* Leproſy.

THAT the External Diſeaſes I treat of, are for the moſt part occaſioned by Infection, is very certain, there being, I believe, ſcarcely One Perſon in Fifty troubled with them, but what were infected by others in the manner I have ſhewn in the foregoing Chapter; yet as the communicating of them from one Perſon to another, cannot properly be called the Cauſe, but rather the ſpreading of Diſeaſes before cauſed; I deſign here, paſſing over that, as ſufficiently proved and already known, to proceed to an enquiry after the Original Cauſe of thoſe Cutaneous Diſtempers, when they ariſe and happen to Perſons who have not been infected by, or received them from others, and that from the Opinions of ſome of the Ancient as well as Modern Phyſicians, many of whom aſſign the *Itch*, *Scabies*, *Leproſy*, &c. to one and the ſame Cauſe, and are of Opinion that thoſe Diſeaſes differ from one another only in degree. Nevertheleſs it muſt be allow'd, that inveterate *Itching Humours* in particular Parts, are ſometimes of a Scrophulous Nature, and proceed from the *King's-Evil*.

Galen

GALEN lays the fault of Diſeaſes of the Skin on melancholy or aduſt Matter.

AVICEN is of Opinion that, ‘ Blood ‘ with which Choler is mixt, and that with ‘ Salt Flegm converted into Melancholy, is ‘ the cauſe of *Scabbineſs*.

LANGIUS accuſes, ‘ Impure Cholerick ‘ Blood, or aduſt and Fæculent, mixt with Li- ‘ quor of Salt Flegm (produced by diſcracy of ‘ the Liver, and oftentimes obſtruction of the ‘ Spleen) as the cauſe of the *Itch*.

THE Learned Dr. *Blancard*, in his Phyſical Dictionary, ſays, the *Leproſy* is cauſed by ‘ Black Bile diffuſed thro’ the whole Body.

OTHERS are alſo of the Opinion, that the *Itch* proceeds from ‘ Choler, ſubtilized and ‘ ſent into the Habit of the Body, which be- ‘ ing mixt with thin Salt Flegm, and ſpread- ‘ ing into the Superficies of the Body, breaks ‘ out in the *Cuticula* with ſmall watery Pu- ‘ ſtules cauſing great Itching.

‘ THAT a *Scabbineſs* proceeds from Blood ‘ and Lympha defiled with Excrementitious ‘ Humours, not ſufficiently ſeparated and ex- ‘ pelled by Urine, Stool, Sweat, *&c.* So that ‘ the Sanguineous and Lymphatick Juices ‘ muſt of neceſſity be corrupted with ſharp ‘ and biting Humours, mixt with Salt Flegm ‘ and aduſt Choler.

THAT the *Leproſy* is cauſed by ‘ Salt ‘ Flegm poſſibly putrified with a mixture of ‘ oily Humours, as a depraved Lympha and ‘ aduſt Choler.

AND that the remote Cauſes of this Depravation of the Choler and Lympha, are ‘ Feeding upon Salt, Acrid and Hot Meats; ‘ alſo want of Cleanlineſs, or keeping the ‘ Body ſweet and clean.

Dr. *Willis* believes the Cauſe of the *Itch*, &c. to be the Depravation of the Humour of the Cutaneous Glands:

‘ THE Glandulous Humour, *ſays he*, de- ‘ praved either by the Blood being very im- ‘ pure, and alſo diſſolved, leaving its Cor- ‘ ruption and Recrements plentifully in the ‘ Cutaneous Glands, which there aſſuming the ‘ Nature of a more Corroſive Ferment, does ‘ ferment and variouſly Coagulate with other ‘ Juices that come thither or paſs that way, ‘ and ſo produces the *Itch*, &c. or the Humour ‘ gathered in the Cutaneous Glands, ſome- ‘ times by mere Stagnation, becomes not only ‘ Itchy but Corruptive. Therefore thoſe kept ‘ long in Priſon, or that lead a Sedentary ‘ Life, and are uſed to filth and ſtink, are ‘ Obnoxious to theſe Diſeaſes.

AGAIN, the ſame Author tells us, That in a *Scabbineſs* and *Leproſy*, ‘ *Acido-Saline* Con- ‘ cretions (like Tartar in Wine) do happen ‘ in the Maſs of Blood, which when they ‘ cannot

' cannot be conquered or diſſolved, are dri-
' ven to the Skin, as in the other Caſe, (*viz.*
' *Wine*) to the ſides of the Cask.

THE Excellent *Etmuller* aſſigns the Cauſe of the *Itch*, to ' Sharp Particles of the *Serum*,
' repairing to the Surface in ſmall Quantities.

OF a *Scabbineſs*, to the ' Depravation of
' the Nutritive *Serum*, or Juice of the Parts
' under the Skin, occaſioned by a Preternatural
' Acid, that takes its Riſe from ſudden Cold,
' ſucceeding Heat, and ſhutting up the Steams
' of the Body within the ſtraitned Pores; and
' which by continuance may at laſt infect
' the Blood.

HE alſo ſays, that ' A *Scabbineſs* proceeds
' ſometimes, but very rarely, from Internal
' Cauſes, as *Scurvy*, *French-Pox*, &c.

AND treating of the *Leproſy*, he gives his Opinion that it is cauſed by ' A Saline Cor-
' roſive Acid reigning in the *Serum*.

HE likewiſe ingeniouſly gives the Reaſon why Cutaneous Diſeaſes are ſometimes moiſt and ſometimes dry, as follows:

' IF the Nutritive Juice be very ſerous and
' apt to corrupt, the Breakings out run much;
' if balmy and impregnated with a Volatile
' Oily Salt, they are cruſty and dry.

BY what has been ſaid, it appears how much Phyſicians differ from one another, concerning the Cauſe of thoſe Cutaneous Diſtempers, but in my Judgment the two laſt quoted Authors

have hit the Mark much nearer than others, and their Opinions, which amount almoſt to one and the ſame thing, will appear more Rational, if what the accurate and learned Phyſician Dr. *J. Keill* ſays concerning the Scarf-Skin, in his Anatomy of the Human Body abridg'd, be conſider'd; his Words follow:

'THIS (*i. e. the Scarf-Skin*) is that ſoft 'Skin which riſes in a Bliſter upon any burning, or the application of a Bliſtering Plaiſter. 'It ſticks cloſe to the Surface of the true 'Skin, to which it is alſo tied by the Veſſels 'which nouriſh it, tho' they are ſo ſmall as 'not to be ſeen; when we examine the Scarf-'Skin with a Microſcope, it appears to be 'made up of ſeveral Lays of exceeding ſmall 'Scales, which cover one another more or 'leſs, according to the different thickneſs of 'the Scarf-Skin in the ſeveral Parts of the 'Body. In the Lips where the Scales appear 'plaineſt, becauſe the Skin is thineſt, they 'only in a manner touch one another. Now 'theſe Scales are either the excretory Ducts 'of the Glands of the true Skin, as I think is 'apparent in Fiſhes, or elſe theſe Glands have 'their Pipes opening between the Scales.

'THESE Scales are often glewed one to 'another by the groſſer parts of our inſenſible 'Tranſpiration, hardening upon them by 'the Heat of our Body, which carries off 'the more Volatile Particles. The Humour 'which is afterwards ſeparated by the Glands 'of the Skin, being pent in between the

'Scales,

'Scales, cauſes frequent Itchings, and where 'the Matter has been longer pent up, ſmall 'Pimples. Thus far the Ingenious Dr. *Keill.*

NOW if the Humour deſigned by Nature to be excreted, by being pent in, thro' Cold or any other Accident, cauſes frequent *Itchings*, and by a longer continuance, ſmall Pimples, as certainly it does, why may it not be ſuppoſed, according to *Willis* and *Etmuller*, that, by a yet longer Confinement or Stagnation, it will be depraved, become corruptive, and at laſt infectious, eſpecially if the remote Cauſes, ſuch as leading a Sedentary Life, eating Salt Meats, the Relicks of other Diſtempers, or living in Naſtineſs or Filth, have obſtructed or impaired the Glandules of the Body, or any way injured their Structure, and alſo cauſed irregular Cohæſions of Particles in the Blood and Juices, ſo as to make them apt upon the leaſt Stagnation to Corrupt and Putrify?

MUCH might be ſaid to ſtrengthen and defend this Opinion; yet after all the fine Speculations and Notions Men have, and propagate concerning the Original Cauſe of theſe and many other Diſeaſes, it muſt be acknowledged that it is doubtful, whether we can more than gueſs at the real Eſſence of them; and the moſt faithful Phyſician that ever wrote, the Immortal *Sydenham*, our Countryman, appears to have had the ſame Sentiments, when treating of another Diſtemper, he tells us:

'AS to the intrinſick Nature and Eſſence of 'this Diſeaſe, as they ſay, I count I am to 'ſeek for it no further than as it appears by the 'Symptoms we have deſcribed, no more than 'I am obliged to ſearch into the Eſſence of 'any Plant or Animal.

THIS admirable Man being ſenſible, no doubt, of the inſufficiency of Human Reaſon to penetrate into the Abſtruſe Principles or firſt moving Cauſes of Diſeaſes, ſeems to have apply'd himſelf wholly to the Obſervation of Diſtempers, their ſeveral Symptoms, Stages and Terminations, together with the moſt Natural and Effectual Method of curing them, as his admirable Works, ſo juſtly valued all over *Europe*, ſhew.

AND it would be well if all Perſons who Practiſe Phyſick, and who have the good of Mankind moſt at Heart, would Copy after the Learned and Incomparable *Sydenham*, whoſe Works will never Die, and whoſe Example all ought to follow, and not be forward to broach New Notions, and ſtrain every thing to ſupport an embrac'd Hypotheſis, or to aſſert this or that to be the Original Cauſe of any Diſtemper, unleſs it could be made appear by undeniable Demonſtration; but rather apply themſelves diligently to the Obſervation of Diſeaſes, thro' their Beginning, State and Declination, and be thereby perfectly acquainted with all their Symptoms, Variations, and Conſequences, ſo as to be able ſafely and quickly to Cure them, which I

am sure all unprejudic'd Persons will agree, would be much better for the unhappy Patients afflicted with Distempers, than for their Physicians to be taken up with airy Speculations concerning them, and at the same time perhaps, be at a Loss how to effect their Cure.

AND, indeed, the many Mistakes there are made, and Errors committed in the Cure of Cutaneous Diseases, even by those from whom one would be far from expecting Mismanagement, are very surprizing, and what I could not believe, if almost daily Experience did not convince me of it, of which I could give very many Examples, but that I think it much better rather to draw a Veil over the Miscarriages of others, than expose them to Publick View.

CHAP. III.

Of ſeveral Methods of curing the Itch, *particular* Itching Humours, Scabbineſs *and* Leproſy; *the Reaſons why ſo many miſs of being Cured; the Danger of falling into grievous and incurable Diſtempers by ill Methods, and pernicious Mercurial Applications; and of the ſafe, eaſy, and effectual Method of Cure advanced by the Author.*

MOST Authors agree, that the ſame Method and Medicines that will Cure an inveterate *Itch*, will likewiſe take Place in a *Scabbineſs*, *Leproſy*, and moſt other Defilements of the Skin, if curable; and indeed Experience anſwers for the Truth of it, only with this difference, that the Method muſt be cloſely followed for a longer Time, and the Medicines be made ſtronger for a *Scabbineſs* and *Leproſy*, than it is requiſite they ſhould be for the firſt mentioned Infection.

BUT what that Method and thoſe Medicines are, that with the greateſt Certainty, leaſt Trouble, and without Danger, will accompliſh the Cure of Cutaneous Diſeaſes, is what Phyſicians differ very much about.

Some

SOME recommend Bleeding and Purging as abſolutely neceſſary; the firſt to cauſe Revulſion, temperate the Blood, and allay its too great Ebullition, the laſt to cleanſe the Stomach, Bowels, and all the Juices, from Impurities, and both of them to diminiſh the Humours of the Body in general, without all which, they are of Opinion the *Itch* and other Defædations cannot ſafely or eaſily, if at all, be cured.

OTHERS adviſe to *Sudorificks*, or Sweating Medicines; and others to *Diureticks*, or ſuch as work by Urine; ſome neglecting all evacuating Medicines, preſcribe ſweetners of the Blood, and cooling *Alteratives*, which they believe will Cure by ſubduing the Cholerick Diſpoſition and Acrid Quality of the Juices.

OTHERS, laying aſide all Internal Remedies, rely wholly upon External Applications for the Cure of Cuticular Maladies, ſuch as Ointments, Baths and Waſhes, made of Tobacco, Brimſtone, Elecampane, Sharp pointed Dock, *&c.* and others chiefly inſiſt on Mercury or Quickſilver, outwardly applied, either by a Girdle, or mix'd with Unguents, *&c.* which they ſay will effectually kill the *Itch* and other Diſeaſes of the Skin.

THUS Phyſical Authors vary exceedingly in their Opinions one from another, and each brings ſeveral Reaſons and Arguments to ſupport the Opinion he is of, or has advanced. Thoſe who plead moſt for External Applications, have but an indifferent Opinion of Purging, and inveigh mightily againſt Bleed-

ing

ing, which they ſay draws the foul Humour, that either never reached deeper than the Skin, or elſe that Nature had kindly expelled to the outer Parts, into the Blood and Juices, ſo as certainly to corrupt them, and fix the Diſtemper upon the whole Habit of the Body, and thereby render it incurable.

MARTIANUS gives an Account of a certain Perſon, 'Who labouring under the *Itch*, 'would have Four Pound of Blood taken from 'him by opening a Vein, upon which, that very 'Day, revulſion of the Putrid Humour being 'made from the Skin to the greater Veins by 'Venæ-Section, he was taken with a Malignant 'Fever, which kill'd him the Fifth Day.

'LETTING Blood (*ſays another Author*) 'muſt abſolutely be avoided in this Cure, for 'thereby the Impurity is drawn into the 'Blood, and that defiled which before was pure.

THE famous *Helmont* mentions purging Medicines in this Diſtemper, as well as in other Caſes, with Deriſion.

BUT *Willis*, amongſt many others, is of Opinion, that both Bleeding and Purging in Cutaneous Diſeaſes are neceſſary.

SPEAKING of Bleeding he ſays, 'The 'Effect is not taken away till firſt the Cauſe 'be removed, which may this way properly 'be done. Yea for an univerſal Diſeaſe, ſuch 'as the *Itch* is, an univerſal Remedy, ſuch as 'letting Blood is, ſeems convenient.

HE likewiſe mightily recommends Purging in the following Words; 'Therefore Purges

'ought

'ought both to begin and make an end of 'this Method of Cure; for tho' *Helmont* 'treats a Cathartick Medicine with high Dis-'dain, and, as it were, leads it in Triumph, 'becauſe of it ſelf it does not Cure the *Itch*; 'yet we may affirm, that this Diſeaſe is ſcarce 'ever eaſily, but never ſafely cured, without 'this ſort of Phyſick.

'HE that would Cure the *Itch*, (*ſays Hart-*'*manus*) muſt firſt of all Cleanſe the Blood, for 'it lodges in the Saline, Vitriolick, and Alu-'minous Impurities thereof.

ETMULLER alſo adviſes to Purging; and *Sydenham*, directing to ſweating Medicines, and outward Applications for an Inveterate *Itch*, ſays, 'But theſe Things ought not to be 'applied till the Patient's Body hath been firſt 'duly prepared by Bleeding and Purging.

BESIDES the Authorities of theſe Great and Learned Men for Bleeding and Purging in the *Itch*, *&c.* there are many Examples given by Authors, of the unhappy Conſequences of attempting the Cure of External Diſeaſes by outward Applications only.

BORELLUS informs us of a Man, who being troubled with an exceeding Itching, and endeavouring to Cure himſelf with a Waſh in a few Hours after uſing it, 'There were 'Bliſters rais'd all over his Body, and in a 'little while after, he was ſo troubled with 'Faintings and Swoonings, that he was very 'nigh Death.

'

'A lusty Matron (*says Hildanus*) about 'Forty Years Old, fat and of a moist Constitution of Body, when in the Month of *February*, she had put on a Quicksilver Girdle 'for a small *Itch*, and had worn it for three 'Weeks Night and Day, she indeed was rid 'of her *Itch*, but there followed a Salivation, exulceration of the Gums, and heaviness in the Head, which was followed by 'a Catarrh on the Left Side, and weakness 'of the same.

VELSCHIUS gives an Account of a Person afflicted with this Disease, 'Who neglecting Universals, kill'd the *Itch* with Ointments; presently upon which, Defluxions of 'Salt Humours supervening, and falling upon 'his Lungs, he spit Blood at times, and at 'length, an Hectick coming upon him, he 'died: When he was dead, his Lungs were 'found altogether corrupted, and most part 'of 'em harden'd into a Scirrhus.

BY these Accounts, amongst many others, that are left upon Record, to warn us against the like irrepairable Mischiefs, the Readers may judge what Care there ought to be taken, and what Skill there is required in curing Chronick Diseases of the Skin; and I believe it will be easily allow'd, that it is not only requisite to Cure them surely, but safely too; for to omit Internal Remedies, and strike in those Distempers by external and repelling Applications, tho' ever so seemingly innocent in themselves, may be attended with very bad

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Accidents, ſuch as violent Fevers, Aſthmas, Conſumptions of the Lungs, Convulſions, Falling Sickneſs, Palſies, Apoplexies, Madneſs, internal Ulcers, Scirrhous Tumours, and other dangerous, and oftentimes incurable Maladies, under which, if the Patients eſcape with Life, they may remain miſerable all their Days.

FOR when the malignant Humour is thus forc'd to retire from the external Parts of the Body, it is then circled about with the Blood, till it is depoſited and fix'd upon ſuch of the Noble internal Parts, as happen to be moſt weak, or apt to receive it. Thus if it falls on the Brain and Nerves, it produces the Apoplexy, Falling-Sickneſs, Palſy, Convulſions, or Madneſs, *&c.* If it happens to fix on the Breaſt, it cauſes a violent Cough, dreadful Aſthma, or Ulceration of the Lungs and incurable Conſumption; if upon the Urinary Parts, it occaſions the Diſeaſes common to them, ſuch as racking Pains, Dyſury, Strangury, incurable Ulceration of the Kidneys, or Bladder, *&c.* If upon the Liver and Spleen, Obſtructions and Scirrhous Tumours of thoſe Parts are produced; if it fixes on the Bowels, it cauſes a ſevere Cholick, Diarrhæa, Dyſentery, Inflammation of the Gutts, or Illiack Paſſion, *&c.* And if it does not happen to lodge on any of thoſe particular Parts, it then commonly inflames the whole Maſs of Blood univerſally, and ſo produces violent Fevers, continual or intermitting, threatning ſpeedy Death.

AND the Illneſſes that happen by ſuch imprudent Management, ſometimes do not appear till ſome Months after ſuch outward Applications have been forborn.

WHAT a riſque therefore do thoſe run, who, being unhappily troubled with the *Itch*, or any other Cutaneous Diſtemper, endeavour to Cure themſelves with Ointments, Waſhes, Quickſilver Girdles, *&c.* which if they do not take effect, as very often happens, are then a very great Fatigue to them to no purpoſe, and if they do Cure, then expoſe them to the Danger of worſe Diſeaſes, and even Loſs of Life.

THE Ingenious Dr. *Fuller*, in the Appendix to his Book, intituled, *Medicina Gymnaſtica*, informs us, that he ſplit upon this Rock, and endured the moſt violent Illneſs imaginable for many Years together, by means of curing himſelf, with a Quickſilver Girdle, of an *Itch* that he had accidentally caught; an Abſtract of which take as follows:

'I wore it (*ſays he, meaning a Mercurial Girdle*) for ſeveral Months by times, and then 'laid it quite aſide; but the Miſchief was be-'gun, tho' I was not aware of it; for about 'a Month after, I awak'd one Morning with 'an unuſual Giddineſs, and in a little time 'after, I found ſeveral Convulſions begin to 'come upon me, in the Capillary Arteries of 'my Eyes, *&c.* Sometimes I ſhould have my 'Hands drawn in, and my Fingers brought 'to the Palm of my Hand involuntarily. I

'was

'was not a little terrified, as any may imagine;
'but by proper means the ſeverity of the
'Symptoms went off, and I remain'd only
'with a Giddineſs, which was very trouble-
'ſome. Once upon drinking the *Bath* Waters
'too long, that Vertiginous Rotation was ſo
'increaſed, that I was laid up for a Month
'with it, being ſcarce able to go about with-
'out ſtaggering like a drunken Man; but
'this extremity abated, and I remain'd heal-
'thy under that Giddineſs for ſeveral Years,
'till happening once to be more indiſpoſed
'than uſually, upon taking a Chalybeate, the
'Humour ſtruck deeper into the Nerves of
'the Pectoral Muſcles; ſo that I found my
'Shoulders begin to be contracted involuntari-
'ly, and upon walking, a ſhortneſs of Breath,
'which I could diſcern, was cauſed by the
'preternatural preſſure of thoſe Muſcles upon
'my Breaſt, which I have ſometimes reſiſted
'ſo far, when it has happen'd to come upon
'me in the Streets, before I could get to a
'Houſe I knew, that it has made my Eyes
'Flaſh, and brought other Epileptick Symp-
'toms upon me, that I have been forced to
'take into a Shop, and deſire leave to reſt me
'for a time. Theſe Things continued on me
'for a Year or more, and declining under
'theſe Spaſms of my Breaſt, I was at length
'quite confined to my Home for near three
'Months, all the while growing worſe and
'worſe, in ſpite of the Power of any Medi-
'cines I took, when it happend that I was

'caſual-

'casually directed to the use of Riding, in 'order to which I removed to *Hampstead*, 'where I rode at least twice a Day, for the 'space of Seven Weeks. After I had by these 'means recovered a good Measure of Health, 'I enjoyed it about a Year and half, by the 'help of Riding at due Intervals; but think-'ing my self stronger than I really was, and 'Riding long Journies, I was took of a sud-'den with the strangest sort of *Deliquium* (*or* '*Fainting*) that perhaps ever was heard of; to 'these sort of Fits was added a *Diarrhæa* (*or* '*Looseness*) which was attended with a Nause-'ousness and Inclination to Vomit; and what 'is Remarkable, those Nights after my 'Vomiting, I should Sweat to that degree, as 'to make my Shirt and Sheets as wet as if 'they had been dip'd in Water, upon which I 'was refreshed and freed from the greater se-'verity of those Symptoms, which plainly 'shews how pernicious that Psoradick (*or* '*Itchy*) Salt was, which the Mercurial Particles 'had repelled and intimately mix'd in my 'Blood.

'THUS I had three Calamities upon me 'at once, a Flux, a Vomiting, and the *Deli-'quiums* (*or Faintings*) I spoke of before, the 'last of which had something so incredible to 'em, that I shall forbear to relate it; I do 'not speak in heat, but seriously and calmly, 'that the Vomiting, tho' very frequent and 'severe, was desirable, if compared with these 'most strange Faintings, which were so tor-

'ment-

'menting and insupportable, that if I had 'been Stab'd or had had my Flesh cut with 'Knives, I am certain I could much easier have 'born it; I betook my self to moderate Riding 'again, and held out even under such pressing 'Severities, as I have related, no less a time 'than a Year and Nine Months, when at length 'these Evils gained upon me, and my Vomit-'ings were so frequent and incredibly violent, 'that they took away the use of my Limbs, so 'that I was forced to be lifted every time up-'on my Horse, that I might continue my Ri-'ding, tho' it were but to gain a little perio-'dical Ease, till that seisure on my Limbs in-'creasing, I was confined to my Chamber, my 'Legs and Thighs swell'd, and I was very near 'the End of this tedious Journey of Life.

THE Account this Learned and Ingenious Physician gives of his own dreadful Illness, occasioned by his wearing a Quicksilver Girdle, together with the Instances before given, of the Mischiefs that have been done by that Method, as also by Washes and Ointments, are sufficient, one would think, to deter all Persons from tampering with outward Medicines, for the Cure of Cutaneous Diseases, without taking proper Internal Remedies also, by the Direction of a Skilful Physician.

AND here it will not be amiss to exemplify the great danger of Quicksilver Girdles, by another Case that lately happen'd.

ON the 24th of *May*, an Ingenious Woman of very good Repute, in the utmost Fright

and Conſternation (for which, indeed, ſhe had a great deal of Reaſon) deſired my Aſſiſtance; She gave me to underſtand, that ſhe had for ſome time before been troubled with the *Itch*, and for the Cure of it, had put on a Quick-ſilver Girdle, which, in a ſhort time, raiſed ſuch a violent Salivation, as I ſcarcely ever ſaw before; for beſides the ordinary Symptoms of ſoreneſs of the Mouth, exulceration of the Gums, ſtinking Breath, looſneſs of the Teeth, *&c.* it was attended with others very ſevere and dangerous; particularly ſuch a prodigious Inflammation and ſwelling of the Glandules about her Throat, that at firſt, I queſtioned very much whether I ſhould be able to ſave her Life; and I really believe if ſhe had not apply'd for Relief at the Inſtant ſhe did, ſhe would in a little time have been ſuffocated or choak'd, and ſo have periſh'd by the effect of that pernicious Girdle.

I immediately endeavour'd to check the Salivation, and remove the Symptoms by *Cathartick*s, Specifick *Abſorbents*, *Cardiacks*, *Gargariſms*, and other proper Remedies, which, by God's Bleſſing, had all the wiſh'd for Succeſs, ſav'd her from the Grave, and reſtor'd her to perfect Health.

THE narrow eſcape this Woman had, and what has been ſaid before on this Head, will, I hope, prevent all Perſons who happen to read theſe Papers, from making uſe of Mercurial or Quickſilver Girdles, on any account whatever.

NEITHER

NEITHER is frequent Bleeding, or in a large quantity at a time, to be attempted without Danger; for it is certain, that irregular Bleeding many times draws the pernicious Humour of the *Itch*, *&c.* from the Scarf-Skin, which alone was infected, into the Mass of Blood, and to the Internal and more Noble Parts, that before were not in the least tainted with it.

SO likewise Purging imprudently with strong Medicines, will have the same effect, and not often clear the External Parts of their troublesome defilement neither; many times it happens that Patients may Purge themselves into the Grave, with the common violent *Cathartick*s, before their Skin will be freed from the *Itch*, *&c.* and this *Helmont* well knew, and made a handle of it to despise Purging, in the manner before mentioned.

IF therefore Learned Physicians themselves, who make the Body of Man, and all the Defects and Distempers it is liable to, their continual Study; and who are well acquainted with the Virtue, Nature and Use of Medicines, which are keen Instruments in their Hands, and which, when well apply'd, restore the Diseased Body to pristine Health, but when improperly prescribed, quite the contrary; if I say, such Eminent Men make false steps, as in the Instances just now given, and differ from one another about the most effectual Method of curing the *Itch*, *&c.* as already shewn. How should the Afflicted Patients, who must

be ſuppoſed to be wholly Ignorant of the Nature, Cauſe, &c. of the Diſtemper, and who know not the Virtues of Medicines, or at leaſt, when, and when not, there is a proper Indication for their Uſe, be able to form a right Judgment, or take and uſe the moſt ſeemingly innocent Remedies, without extream Danger?

HAVING thus given the Opinion of Phyſicians, concerning Bleeding, Purging, and External Applications in the Cure of the *Itch*, &c. and appriſed the Reader of the Danger that attends the unskilful uſe of them, it may not be amiſs to offer my own Opinion concerning their true Uſe, and then deſcribe the Method that to me appears moſt Rational for the Cure of Cutaneous Diſtempers, and which Experience has confirmed to be the Safeſt, Sureſt, and moſt Expeditious to eradicate the *Itch*, Inveterate *Itching Humours*, *Scabbineſs* and *Leproſy* when Curable.

FIRST then, as to Bleeding, it ought not promiſcuouſly to be adviſed to all Perſons, neither is it abſolutely to be forborn; large or frequent Bleeding weakens the Patient, and, as already ſaid, draws the Infection inwards, and often fixes it upon the habit of the Body, ſo as to render it very difficult to Cure; but to omit Bleeding entirely, where a Patient is Young, and of a Plethorick Conſtitution, and whoſe Juices are apt to be much diſturbed, and whole Body diſordered upon adminiſtring Remedies, is certainly very erroneous; and that omiſſion may

may be attended with an acute Fever, or other Accidents, endangering Life.

EXTREAMS therefore muſt be avoided, and if a Fever is to be feared, Bleeding in a ſmall quantity, may without Danger of attracting the foul Humour inwards, be premiſed, in order to prevent all Accidents, but in my Opinion, for no other reaſon.

GENTLE Purging is always requiſite for all Perſons, whoſe Circumſtances of Body will admit of it, ſome very few excepted; but the ſtrong common Purges muſt be avoided, not only as too fatiguing to the Patient, but pernicious alſo; for all *Cathartick*s made uſe of in theſe Caſes, ought to be very gentle, that ſo Nature may not be oppreſſed, but on the contrary aſſiſted, and the offending Matter be carried off by a conſtant and eaſy Evacuation, by which the Patient will eſcape the Danger of drawing the Diſeaſy Humour to the Internal Parts, and of fixing it in the Blood and Juices, which violent Purges would expoſe him to.

PROPER External Applications are alſo exceeding neceſſary to expedite the Cure, and to eradicate more certainly the foul Infection, and are very ſafe to be uſed, when gentle *Cathartick*s (with which *Specifick*s muſt ever be mixed) are alſo inwardly given; but are very dangerous when uſed unskilfully, alone, or without the neceſſary Precautions.

IN the choice of External Applications there is much Judgment required; for ſuch as are proper for one Perſon troubled with the

Itch, &c. may not be ſo for another; yet in general they ought to be of a very ſubtile and penetrating Nature, that they may eaſily enter the External Pores of the Skin, and be alſo endued with a Specifick Quality, to mortify or kill the pernicious ſharp Humour lodged therein, and likewiſe be adapted to enlarge the excretory Ducts, that there may be free perſpiration for the future, and that the excrementitious Salts combined with Sulphur, may no more be pent in, and by Stagnation acquire Acrimony, and ſo cauſe Itching, &c.

SPECIFICK *Alteratives*, *Diureticks* and *Sudorificks*, are alſo often very uſeful to mend the Craſis of the Blood, depurate the Juices, rectify the Glands, open the External Pores, and reſtore their Tone, and muſt be preſcribed as the Caſe may require.

I might here give various Preſcriptions, of Remedies of every kind I have mentioned, from the Works of Learned and Eminent Phyſicians, for the Cure of the *Itch*, inveterate *Itching Humours*, *Scabbineſs* and *Leproſy*; but conſidering that the Judgment of a Skilful Man is always requiſite for their right Application, even in the moſt trifling *Itch*, and that tho' thoſe Preſcriptions might be excellent in their kind, and ſhould fully anſwer the Character Authors have given of them; yet if Patients ſhould proceed on their own Heads, and unskilfully take or uſe them, they might prove very prejudicial, and inſtead of Curing their Diſeaſes, injure their Bodies, and perhaps endanger

danger their Lives, I thought it beſt to omit them.

BUT the Method that I think moſt proper to Cure the *Itch*, and other Chronick Diſeaſes of the Skin, is this, *viz.* In the firſt place, if the Patient is Young, of a Sanguine Complexion, Plethorick, or inclined to a Fever, the Day before I order any Medicines, I direct to Bleeding in a ſmall quantity, in order to prevent a Fever, or other acute Illneſs, and for no other end; but if no ſuch Accident is to be feared, I omit Bleeding, and immediately adviſe to both Internal and External Remedies, to be taken and uſed together.

THE External Medicines I direct to, certainly clear the Skin from all manner of foulneſs, rendering it in a ſhort time ſmooth, fair, and entirely free from Itching, and from all Pimples, Scurf, Scabs, and other Defilements; whilſt the Internal ones, which are gently *Purging*, *Diuretick*, and *Alterative*, cleanſe the Blood and Juices from Impurities, deſtroy and carry off ſharp Humours, and Acrid Particles, that may have intimately mixed with the Blood, and infected its whole Maſs; break the Combinations of Saline and Sulphureous Corpuſcles, rectify the Glandules, free the Pores from obſtructing Viſcoſities, and effectually clear the whole Habit from all Filth and Putrefaction whatſoever; and yet are ſo homogeneous to Nature, as not to cauſe any Sickneſs at Stomach, diſorder of Body, or require Confinement, more than barely to guard

againſt Wet Weather, or more than ordinary Cold.

NEITHER are the External Remedies I adviſe to, compounded with Brimſtone, or accompanied with any nauſeous Smell, but may be uſed by the moſt delicate Perſon, without Offence, and yet are more effectual for the Intention than thoſe with which Brimſtone is mix'd: Now by this Method, and the Medicines I Order (which I always prepare my ſelf, and which both External and Internal are different from the common Remedies) the Diſeaſy-Matter, in whatſoever Corner it lurks, will be ferreted out and entirely deſtroyed, with ſafety to the Patients, who will thereby be happily reſtored to their Priſtine Health.

IT may here be enquired of me, why, ſince the External Medicines I ſpeak of, will effectually clear the Skin from all Defilements, I do not rely on them for the Cure of a recent *Itch*, that has only infected the Scarf-Skin and not penetrated deeper, without adviſing to Internal Remedies? To which I anſwer, That no Man can be aſſured, that ſome of the ſubtile Itchy Particles have not penetrated the ſmall Blood Veſſels, and if it ſhould happen that they have, tho' the *Itch*, to all appearance might be cured, yet thoſe ſmall Particles, that by getting into the Blood have eſcaped being deſtroyed by the outward Remedies, will, by circulating about with it, ſoon infect all the Fluids, and ſo the *Itch* will break out again in a few Months after, and prove worſe and

more ſtubborn than before, as Perſons without Number who have endeavoured to be cured that way, have experienced to their Coſt, and which, by taking proper Internals at the ſame time, might have been effectually prevented; beſides, by adminiſtring peculiar Purging and Alterative Medicines, all Accidents and Diſtempers, that the uſing of even the Safeſt outward Applications make the Patients liable to, as before ſhewn, are abſolutely guarded againſt.

IT may likewiſe be asked, why, If the Internal Remedies I direct to, are of ſuch Efficacy as I mention, I do not wholly depend upon them for the Cure of Diſeaſes of the Skin, without adviſing to External Applications? To which it may be anſwered, That we ought to attack ſuch ſtubborn Diſtempers with all our force, and by all likely ways of ſucceeding; beſides which, we cannot reaſonably ſuppoſe it poſſible for a Patient to be cured near ſo ſoon by Internal Medicines alone, as by them and External Applications together; the whole Maſs of Blood and Juices will take up a conſiderable time to be perfectly altered and purified, and much longer will it be, before the Diſeaſy Particles lodged in the External Pores of the Skin, can by Internals alone, be abſolutely overcome and deſtroyed; but when with them we joyn proper outward Remedies, which are always ſafe whilſt gentle *Cathartick*s, *&c.* are given inwardly, we then anſwer all the Intentions of Cure, and ſtrike home to the Morbifick Matter, ſo as to deſtroy it Root and

Branch

Branch, and from thence may reaſonably promiſe our ſelves happy Succeſs in a very ſhort time.

FROM what has been ſaid, may be gathered the Reaſons why ſo many Perſons miſs of being perfectly cured of the *Itch*, *&c.* for many Months, and oftentimes Years; for by uſing outward Applications alone, tho' proper ones, the Cure even of a new caught *Itch*, is not often perfectly accompliſhed, and when it is, not without Danger; neither can Perſons handſomely, I'm ſure not expeditiouſly, be Cured by taking Internal Medicines, tho' exceeding good, unleſs aſſiſted with proper Externals at the ſame time; and to take and uſe Internal and External Remedies together, that are not very Efficacious (a misfortune often happening to Perſons who follow the Vulgar Methods) is only trifling with the Diſtemper and prolonging their Affliction; for if they happen to be better, and ſeem quite Cured, it is generally but for a ſhort time, and the Diſeaſe ſoon after breaks out again, with greater force than before.

MANY Perſons have been thus fatigued with a ſimple *Itch*, ſometimes for Years together, and at laſt ended their Days, by means of a ſevere *Scabbineſs* or *Leproſy*, when if at firſt they had been treated in a regular Method, with the moſt effectual Medicines, they might have been compleatly Cured, perhaps in a few Days.

TO

TO theſe Reaſons, why Perſons miſs of being entirely cured, we may add, that thoſe afflicted with the *Itch*, &c. are for the moſt part aſhamed to own it, and alſo imagining, being otherwiſe well in Health, that the Diſeaſe is but of ſlight Conſequence, and not at all Dangerous, they neglect to apply to a Skilful Phyſician for their Cure, but follow the Advice of ſome good Woman or other, few of whom are without a Receipt of ſome Ointment, or other Medicine, which they really think will certainly Cure the *Itch*, &c. or elſe they take or uſe Brimſtone, the vulgar Remedy, which, beſides its Nauſeouſneſs, often proves of dangerous Conſequence, eſpecially to thoſe Hectically inclined; and ſo the Patients are very much fatigued, and many times ruined inſtead of being Cured.

NAY, that they are ſometimes kill'd outright, by following the Advice of Women, and other unskilful Perſons, is demonſtrated by a deplorable Accident that happen'd but a few Years ago; for on the 15th of *December*, 1717. four young Men, Apprentices to Mr. *Sluce*, a Weaver in *Old George-ſtreet Spittle-Fields*, being peſter'd with the *Itch*, took each of them a Doſe of ſome pernicious Drug, that a Woman (Siſter to one of the young Men) gave them, with an Aſſurance that it would certainly Cure the *Itch*; and which it too ſurely and unhappily did, by depriving every one of them of Life that very Day, to the great ſurprize and Sorrow of their Friends, and unſpeakable Grief and

diſtract-

diſtracting Terror of Mind of the unfortunate Woman who gave it them, and who, it ſeems, was very far from deſigning 'em any Injury.

SOME People I have met with, who think ſo lightly of the *Itch* as to judge it a thing of nothing, a ſlight matter, ſcarcely worth minding, and are ſo very weak as to expect to be cured of it for a Trifle, and ſeem frightned when they are told of being put into a regular Method of Cure, that will come to more than Ten or Twenty Shillings Expence.

TO hear ſuch Perſons talk would almoſt provoke one to Laughter, were it not for the diſmal Effects that uſually attend their Ignorance; for I have obſerved, that for the moſt part it is this Claſs of People who are ſeldom cured of the *Itch*, but ſuffer it in length of Time, to terminate in a foul *Scabbineſs* or loathſome *Leproſy*; or if they are cured of the *Itch* by Brimſtone, Quickſilver-Girdles, Ointments, *&c.* to one or other of which they commonly have Recourſe, they are often precipitated into other dreadful Diſeaſes; in either of which Caſes, they would then give above half they are worth in the World, to be reſtor'd to Health.

IT would be well therefore, if thoſe troubled with the *Itch*, *&c.* would ſeriouſly reflect upon the dangerous Conſequences I have mention'd, and conſider, That it is not This or That Medicine (tho' ever ſo good) that ought to be relied on; but that it is requiſite to know when, and when not, it is proper: That the Habit of the Body, State of the Diſeaſe, and

other

other Circumſtances of the Patient, ſhould be carefully conſidered: That the beſt Medicines often prove hurtful, when preſcribed unskilfully, or at Random; and that therefore for Patients to proceed on their own Heads, or to follow the Advice of Women, or other unskilful Perſons, is exceeding dangerous, may be attended with Diſmal Conſequences, and perhaps coſt them their Lives, as the Examples before given, fully prove.

AMONG the many Inſtances I could give of the taking and uſing Brimſtone ineffectually, I ſhall only trouble my Readers with the following, which are very remarkable.

A Country Gentleman happening in a Family who were all troubled with the *Itch*, was quickly infected with that Diſtemper, which, as ſoon as he precieved, he endeavoured to Cure by taking Brimſtone and Milk inwardly, and uſing Brimſtone in an Ointment outwardly, in a very plentiful Manner, according to the vulgar Method, and for a longer Time than is cuſtomary, but to no purpoſe; for he declared to me, that his *Itch* continued upon him as vexatious and bad as ever.

HE then had the Opinion of ſeveral Phyſicians, one after another, and by their Advice took and uſed abundance of Medicines, which, together with their Fees, coſt him a large Sum of Money; at laſt the Diſtemper ſeem'd to be conquer'd, and he thought himſelf perfectly cured, and in a ſhort ſpace of Time married; ſoon after which, the *Itch* broke out again upon him to as great a degree as ever; neither

ther did the New married Lady eſcape, but was as much peſter'd with that Diſtemper as himſelf.

AT that time he happened to meet with the firſt Edition of this little Book, and after reading it, thought proper to put himſelf and Spouſe under my Care for Cure; and in a ſhort time, by punctually following my Directions, they were both entirely freed from that tormenting Diſeaſe, for which the Gentleman (who could neither be cured by Brimſtone, nor any of the Medicines he had before taken and uſed) with abundance of Thanks, not only paid me to my Content, but alſo made me a handſome Preſent, expreſſing at the ſame time the greateſt Joy and Satisfaction, for having been ſo fortunate as to meet with my little Treatiſe, which he ſaid he would not but have ſeen for ever ſo much, the reading of it having cauſed him to apply to me, and be (as he was pleaſed to ſay himſelf) ſo ſafely and eaſily Cured; for he aſſured me that what he had taken and uſed before, by his Phyſician's Preſcriptions, (as well as the Brimſtone) was not only ineffectual, but very nauſeous, and withal exceeding coſtly.

ANOTHER Gentleman who lived not far from *Epſom*, apply'd to me very lately for the Cure of the *Itch*, with which not only himſelf but his Son was very much afflicted; his Son, as the Gentleman inform'd me, had in vain gone through a very long and nauſeous Brimſtone Courſe, had taken *Epſom* Waters, uſed

uſed a Liquor which is publickly ſold, and which the Author pretends will Cure the *Itch* without any other help, and had taken and uſed many other things, but all to no purpoſe; for which reaſon the Gentleman, finding the ill Succeſs his Son had, would try none of them himſelf, but came to me for Advice and Medicines, and as ſoon as he was cured, ſent his Son to me alſo, whom I put into a regular Courſe, and quickly diſcharged perfectly well, to the entire Satisfaction of them both.

BRIMSTONE alſo, in the Cure of the *Itch*, *&c.* is attended with this further Inconvenience, that it obliges thoſe who take and uſe it, either to confine themſelves during the whole Courſe, or elſe to let every one they come near, know they are troubled with the *Itch*; for the ſmell of it is ſo very ſtrong, as not to be overcome, or be concealed, from even thoſe who only juſt paſs by the Perſons who uſe it, much leſs from them they converſe with, to whom it ſmells much more plain, ſtrong and filthy than to themſelves: And it is as natural for People to believe that thoſe who uſe Brimſtone, uſe it for the *Itch*, as it is for them to believe, that thoſe that ſmell of it, uſe it.

AS to ſuch as are aſhamed to own they are troubled with the *Itch*, *&c.* and for that Reaſon neglect to apply to a Phyſician, or a Skilful Perſon, for Cure, they are certainly much in the wrong; for they may be aſſured, that it is the Principle, as well as Intereſt of all

Phyſicians

Phyſicians or Perſons practiſing Phyſick, to keep private any Illneſs their Patients are deſirous to conceal, and to direct to ſuch Remedies as may be taken and uſed privately, without the knowledge of any other Perſon, and without Confinement; as the Medicines I adviſe to in ſuch Caſes moſt certainly may, and ſo as not to be diſcover'd, even by the neareſt Friend, tho' lying in the ſame Bed.

I muſt not omit another Reaſon, why Perſons are often peſtered with the *Itch*, every Three or Four Months, Spring and Fall, *&c. viz.* That when by a proper Method they find themſelves tolerably well, and free from Itching, *&c.* they grow weary of the trouble of taking and uſing Medicines, and leave them off before the Diſeaſy Particles are wholly Eradicated, and thereby deceive themſelves; for if the leaſt part of the Itchy Infection happens to remain in their Clothes, Gloves, *&c.* as ſometimes may happen even after Waſhing, they then catch the Diſtemper afreſh, which would be prevented by continuing the uſe of Remedies according to the Direction of a Skilful Man, for a reaſonable Time, that ſo all the very Seeds of the Diſeaſe, either in their Bodies or Clothes, may be utterly deſtroyed.

AND for the better preventing all Danger of this kind, it is neceſſary for the Patients, as ſoon as the Itching and appearance of the Diſtemper are taken off, to change their Clothes, Sheets, *&c.* immediately, and be very careful not to wear them again, till they are ſure,

by

by often boiling, washing, and cleansing, all the Itchy Particles that lodged in them, are entirely mortify'd and expung'd.

FOR want of due Care in this particular only, abundance of Persons have been exceedingly fatigued with this hateful Disease, on and off, for many Months, and sometimes Years together; of which I could give several Examples that have happen'd within my own Knowledge, but shall mention but one.

A Gentleman of Consideration came to me sometime since, troubled with a severe and universal *Itch*; upon enquiring how he had received the Infection, &c. He told me he had been troubled with that Distemper some Months before, but had been perfectly cured of it, and assured me that he caught it again to that degree I saw, only by his Servant giving him, by Mistake, a pair of Gloves to wear, that he remember'd afterwards to have worn, but once or twice at the most, during the time he was pester'd with the *Itch*. He added, that he kept them on his Hands scarcely an Hour, before he perceived the Mistake, threw them away, and presently wash'd and scour'd his Hands two or three times, but all to no purpose; for the *Itch* soon discovered it self between his Fingers, &c. and from thence spread all over his Body.

BY this Relation all Persons may perceive how very subtle, penetrating, and infecting the Itchy Particles are, that could lie so long in a pair of Gloves, and afterwards so soon

and so far insinuate themselves into the Skin, as not to be wash'd or scour'd off, but to cause a very severe, universal and stubborn *Itch*.

THIS Gentleman I put into a regular Method of Cure, which soon had the desired Effect, for which he handsomely gratify'd me, and is at this Time perfectly well.

NOW by the Method I have advanced, the Directions I give, and the Medicines I have mentioned to use, (which, as before said, I always prepare my self, and which are not difficult to take, or to be apply'd, or in the least fatiguing to the Patients) those miserably afflicted with the *Itch*, inveterate *Itching Humours*, *Scabbiness* or *Leprosy* that are Curable, and even many that have been pronounced incurable, may be certainly restored to Health in a reasonable time, proportionably to the Stubborness and Inveteracy of those Diseases.

SO also Persons troubled with the *King's Evil*, stubborn *Scrophulous Breakings out*, *Tumours*, *Running Ulcers*, &c. may, by the Method I have proposed, be more assuredly and sooner Cured, with the Blessing of God, than by any other whatever.

A few Remedies well adapted and rightly administer'd, for a reasonable time in all those Cases, will generally take effect, without fatiguing the Patients with a vast number of Medicines to nauseate their Stomachs, and tire their Patience.

BUT what hinders many People afflicted with the *King's-Evil* and *Leproſy* from being Cured, is their want of ſufficient Reſolution to go through a regular Courſe; for tho' they are put into one that is neither nauſeous, troubleſome, nor requiring Confinement; and tho' they ſeem at firſt reſolved to go thro' it, and are convinced, that unleſs they do continue it for a reaſonable time, they cannot be Cured; yet, which is ſtrange, they often ſtagger in their Reſolution, grow weary they know not why, and many times leave off before they themſelves can ſo much as expect Relief; whereas if they would have ſtedfaſtly adhered to the Reſolution they firſt took, they might in all human Probability, have been certainly Cured of their Diſtemper, and been reſtor'd to perfect Health.

THERE are alſo many Perſons, labouring under the laſt mentioned ſtubborn Chronick Diſeaſes, who, dreading the uncertain Expence of a regular Courſe of Medicines, are deſirous to enter into a Contract, to be Cured for a certain Sum of Money. Theſe ſort of People, in my Opinion, are the fitteſt in the World to fall into the Hands of ſome of our bold, daring Practitioners, who venture at all, and never fail to promiſe Wonders; for Patients of this kind, are apt to be pleaſed and taken with the poſitive Aſſurances theſe Men give them, of perfectly and infallibly Curing them, &c. whereas a modeſt, faithful Phyſician neither will, nor ought to undertake Patients in that manner

manner, but only desire a reasonable Price for his Medicines, and suitable Fees in Consideration of his Trouble, Advice, or Attendance; neither will he give his Patients such positive Assurances of an infallible Cure, but be cautious in what he says, and only promise in these and all other difficult Cases, to endeavour to the utmost of his Power to Cure them; and for that End, put them into such a rational Course of Medicine, as he really believes, and has found, to be most effectual for such stubborn Maladies, and from which Course they, as well as he, may reasonably, and in all likelihood, expect the desired Success.

THIS is the only Method I take; and the Success God has been pleased to bless me with, in the Cure of the *Itch*, inveterate *Itching Humours*, *Scabbiness* and *Leprosy*, &c. is very remarkable, and I believe can hardly be parallel'd; having, since I first published this little Treatise, discharged from under my Care great Numbers of Persons, who apply'd to me for Cure of inveterate Diseases of the Skin, perfectly well, and who are, many of them, Men of the first Rank, and of Eminent Learning and Parts, and had gone through many Courses of Physick to no purpose, before they came to me; particularly one Gentleman, a Divine of the Church of *England*, that had been unfortunately afflicted with a very foul *Scabbiness* for some Years, and had ineffectually tried almost all Methods, whom I perfectly Cured in a very short time, (considering the inveteracy of the Disease) to his entire Satisfaction.

ANOTHER Perſon, who had been afflicted with a *Leprous Humour* about his Thighs and Privy Parts for many Years together, and had gone through ſeveral Courſes of Phyſick in vain, and afterwards tried abundance of particular Remedies to no Purpoſe, apply'd himſelf to me, tho' at the ſame time ſeem'd to deſpair of being ever perfectly Cured, but hoped only to be reliev'd in ſome Meaſure, his *Leprous Humour* having grown, for ſome time before, more than ordinarily troubleſome to him, and when he came to me, was ſo very Vexatious as to hinder Sleep at Night; this Man I put into the Method of Cure I thought moſt proper, which had ſuch Succeſs, that in a reaſonable Time, contrary to his own Expectation, he was not only made perfectly eaſy, but was alſo compleatly Cured, at which he mightily rejoiced; about four Months after I had been paid for his Cure, and had diſmiſs'd him, he came voluntarily and acknowledg'd the Service I had done him, in a very handſome manner,

A little while ago a young Man about Seventeen Years of Age, who was in a very bad Condition indeed, put himſelf under my Care for Cure; when he came to me, he was all over from Head to Foot ſo full of red, angry, ſore Pimples, (which by turns alſo itched intolerably) that one could ſcarcely ſtick a Pin between them; and his Arms and Legs were ſo ſore and ſtiff with them, that he had much ado to walk from the *Royal Exchange*, to my

Houſe; he told me his Mother had been ſo before him, and ſuppoſed he had it from her Hereditarily; the Apothecary, who is made uſe of by the Family he lives with, had done all he could for him, without his receiving the leaſt Benefit; this young Man I put into a regular eaſy Courſe, which, thro' God's Mercy, had the deſired Effect, and he was perfectly Cured in ſuch a ſhort time, that himſelf and Friends admired at it; ſome time after he had paid me, and I had diſcharg'd him, he came unexpectedly and full of Joy, to return me Thanks for my Care of him, and at the ſame time ſhewed his Gratitude, by making me a ſmall Preſent.

I could give many more Examples of extraordinary Caſes that I have met with, and have had Succeſs in, but think thoſe I have already given, ſufficient.

I cannot here conclude, without taking Notice, of the Abſurdity of ſome Practitioners, who confine themſeves to one Sett of Medicines, which they give to all Perſons troubled with the Diſtempers I have treated about, and which they think will anſwer the End, in People of all Habits, Ages and Conſtitutions; which undoubtedly is altogether againſt Reaſon, and needs no further Confutation.

I find my ſelf often obliged to vary my Medicines, according to the State of the Diſeaſe, Habit of the Body, and other Circumſtances of the Patient, tho' generally ſpeaking, the Method I take (except in ſome extraordinary

Caſes, in which a *Cardiatk* and *Sudorifick* Courſe, *&c.* may be required, and where Diſeaſes of the Skin are complicated with other Illneſſes) is one and the ſame, tho' the Medicines may be different.

AND even for a Conſideration of leſs moment than that of Health, *viz.* for conveniency of the Patient, it is ſometimes neceſſary to change the External Remedies; as for Example, Inſtead of ordering Ointments outwardly, I have been obliged for the ſake of nice Perſons, who were utterly againſt uſing any thing daubing, or that would appear upon their Linnen, to prepare a Liquor as clear as fair Water, and of a pleaſant Scent, to be uſed externally for the ſame purpoſe, and which will certainly have the ſame good Effect; it being a delicate Medicine, very Efficacious, and not to be ſeen after uſing, either upon the Skin, or Linnen, only being a difficult Preparation, is ſomewhat more expenſive to the Patient than many other Applications.

FROM this ſhort Account of Cutaneous Diſeaſes, I hope my Readers, at leaſt the unprejudiced part of them, will be convinced, that the *Itch*, *&c.* may be eaſily and ſafely Cured, without the uſe of Brimſtone, Confinement of the Patient, or knowledge of other Perſons; for that there are other Remedies much pleaſanter, and more effectual than Brimſtone (which beſides its nauſeouſneſs, oftentimes will not Cure; but on the contrary, when taken and uſed by Hectical Perſons, proves

very injurious) is moſt certain, ſince Experience vouches for it; and that Patients may be Cured of the *Itch*, &c. without more than ordinary Confinement, is as true, ſince the Evacuating Remedies I have found neceſſary, and make uſe of, are ſo very gentle, that thoſe who take them may go Abroad about their Buſineſs, without any Diſorder, or further Obſervation, than only not to expoſe themſelves to wet Weather, or to extraordinary Cold; and alſo that Patients may be Cured without the knowledge of other Perſons, is very plain, becauſe the External Medicines I adviſe to, may be uſed privately, and as they have not any ill Scent, they can by no means be diſcovered.

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MVSEVM BRITANNICVM